Effect of embankment on the Pakistan border

941. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state that embankment which was constructed on the Pakistan border in order to facilitate all the work of border fencing has now become disadvantage for India as all Indian check posts are down below the embankment and when intruders attack from the other side of embankment is in advantage position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): Yes, Sir. The embankment (bandh), which was constructed earlier on Pakistan side of the fence in order to facilitate the work of border fencing and floodlighting does not have any defence/tactical potential. Hence, it has been decided to demolish the same.

Induction of army men into Delhi Police to beef up Commando Unit

942. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre plans to include Army men into Delhi Police to strengthen the commando activity, to meet the serious situations and emergencies occurring time and again in the Capital;

(b) if so, the salient features of this new plan;

(c) the estimated budget for this plan to be implemented;

(d) what will be the benefits to the Delhi Police force to tackle emergencies;

(e) whether this scheme will be taken up by other State Police force also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Undue delay in FCRA approvals

943. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge number of applications for approval of prior permission and permanent number under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act are pending in the Ministry for more than a year and above;

(b) the reasons for this undue delay in granting permissions under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the system; and

(d) the total number of such applications separately under prior permission and permanent numbers pending for more than a year and above in the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) On an average, about 4000 to 5000 applications seeking registration and prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 are received from Associations in a year. Registration or prior permission is granted after due scrutiny of applications and a field verification of antecedents and activities of the applicant Association and its office bearers. A concerted attempt is made to process each and every case with due expedition. However, in certain cases, it may take a longer time to process applications mainly due to deficient or incorrect information furnished by Association, detected during scrutiny of the application and/or the field verification report, which necessitates obtaining additional Information from the Association to facilitate a judicious evaluation of the application before a considered decision is taken.

Under the normal circumstances, registration under the Act is granted in four to eight months from the date of receipt of application while prior permission is granted within the prescribed time limit of three to four months. However, in those prior permission cases, where the amount of foreign contribution sought is above a prescribed threshold limit, the antecedents of the foreign donor are also required to be verified, which is a time consuming activity.

As per information available, as against a total number of about 3800 applications received for registration/prior permission during the year 2007, about 450 applications are still in different stages of processing, mainly on account of information awaited from the applicant Association/field agency.

To put in place a user-friendly system, 'FCRA On-Line' services have been introduced, both for registration and prior permission, which has rationalized processing time to improve service delivery to applicant Associations.

Special package for flood victims in Assam

944. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared any special package for the thousands of families who are uprooted by flood and erosion in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to rehabilitate the flood affected people of Assam who had lost their cultivable land and houses demolished by flood and erosion; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Under the existing Scheme of CRF/NCCF, there is no provision to provide funds under any special package to the States in the wake of notified natural calamities, which includes floods. Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support, where necessary. For this purpose, a Calamity Relief